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Montana Agricultural Marketing Bulletin Board

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BULLETIN BOARD

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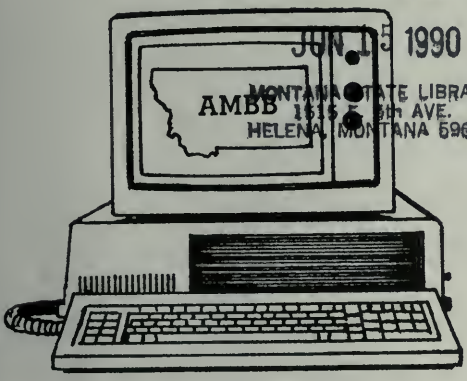

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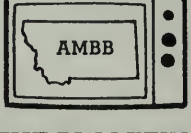
PROVIDING AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICES FOR THE WESTERN REGION

Montana Department of Agriculture
Everett Snortland, Director

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BULLETIN BOARD

The Agricultural Marketing Bulletin Board (AMBB) is an electronic data base of agricultural information designed to serve Montana's agricultural community. The AMBB was established to provide the agricultural industry with timely and accurate information on a wide range of agricultural topics and statistics. The AMBB provides the most current data available.

Given Montana's vast geographical area the AMBB serves as an effective means of bringing people and ideas together. The AMBB is a 24-hour one-stop location to fill your agricultural information needs. The AMBB has been improved to meet user demand to simultaneously accommodate three callers.



WHAT THE BULLETIN BOARD PROVIDES

Market Reports:

— Daily grain quotations, livestock auction reports, and hay pricing reports.

Agricultural Statistics:

— Crop weather reports, monthly agricultural production figures, and monthly agricultural price reports.

Drought & Wintering Guides:

— Various files to help farmers and ranchers cope with extreme weather conditions.

Montana Buyer's Directory
— A listing of over 700 Montana agricultural businesses and processors.

Snowpack and Precipitation:
— Weekly snowpack and precipitation reports from 117 reporting stations across Montana.

Buy/Sell Area:
— Allows for the listing of products and services to buy and sell.

Organizations and Services:
— Listing of agricultural organizations and their meeting dates, government services, marketing associations, and livestock auction markets.

Message Section:
— Allows the user to leave public messages to other system users and the sysop.

Farm and Ranch Economics:
— A series of computer programs designed by the Alberta Department of Agriculture to assist farmers and ranchers in daily operations.

MSU News:
— Agricultural news stories published by Montana State University Publications and News.

AMBB OPERATION

Communication with the AMBB is as simple as making a phone call. The AMBB can be accessed via personal computer and modem by calling (406) 444-5411. The AMBB can process 300,

1200, and 2400 baud rate communication. Except for the cost of the phone call, there is no charge for AMBB services.

Your modem should be set to the following protocol:

Databits	— 8
Parity	— None
Stop Bits	— 1
Duplex	— Full
Emulation	— None

When you reach the AMBB system for the first time you will be asked to set your screen parameters. This determines how the information will print on your screen. Therefore, it is helpful to know how many characters your screen will print horizontally and how many lines will fit on your screen vertically. You will only have to enter this information the first time you log on.

The AMBB is a menu driven program which allows the user to select items by typing the letter in parenthesis preceding the description. Market quotations for example can be accessed by following these steps:

1. (A)gricultural information. Type A and the agricultural information menu will print on your screen.

2. (M)arket reports. Type M and you will enter market report section.

3. (V)iew or Download files. Type V to print the list of files in the market section type.

4. (P)rotocol or (L)ist. Type P to set the file transfer protocol or L to reprint the list of available files.

5. (1) Ascii or (2,3,4). Type 1 to view a file. Type 2, 3 or 4 to set protocol to transfer a file to your computer.

6. (01-03-89.dly). Type 01-03-89.dly, and the daily grain report for January 3, 1989 will print on your screen.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

— U.S.D.A. Market News
— Montana Agricultural Statistic Service
— Soil Conservation Service
— MSU Publications & News
— Montana Cooperative Extension Service
— Alberta Department of Agriculture

For further information concerning the AMBB or other aspects of the department's Marketing Program, call (406) 444-2402, or write:

Marketing Bureau
Agricultural Development Division
Montana Department of Agriculture
Agriculture/Livestock Building
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Montana Department of Agriculture
Agriculture/Livestock Building
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